



**GREAT BASIN
COORDINATING GROUP**

Department of the Interior
Bureau of Land Management
Idaho, Nevada, and Utah, Arizona
National Park Service
Intermountain Region
Pacific West Region
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Western Region
Fish and Wildlife Service
Mountain Prairie & Pacific Region
Pacific Southwest Region

Department of Agriculture
Forest Service
Intermountain Region

State Agencies
Idaho, Utah, and Nevada

June 18, 2009

To: Lyle Carlile, NMAC
To: John Glenn, GB NMAC Rep

Subject: Great Basin Helicopter Management Strategy for Large Fire Support

The Great Basin Coordinating Group (GBCG) supports NMAC's request to develop a more effective approach to resource assignments.

It is the intention of the Great Basin Coordinating Group to provide effective oversight of large fire aviation operations in the Great Basin.

This will be accomplished through daily evaluation of large fire aviation operations by Eastern and Western Great Basin Geographic Coordination Centers and/or the MAC when active.

The GBCG/GBMAC will implement the following:

- Review and test the priority decision matrix considerations for assignment of critical resources on fires with multiple objectives.
- The GACC/GMAC will be requesting additional information on daily IC/AA conference calls to clarify strategic objectives and probable duration of need of critical resources and probability of success.
- Provide additional/guidance to IC's and Agency Administrators (AA) of a change in philosophy of GACC/GMAC management of critical resources.
- Ensure GACC information on resource availability is communicated to AA, IMTs, IC/AC at incident in briefings.
- The existing 209 does not provide adequate information for prioritizing incidents. Suggest modifications to 209 to better support obtaining valuable intelligence to prioritize missions and incidents.
- Continue to reinforce realistic pre orders from IMTs and agency administrators.
- Continue to support IMTs aviation operational risk management principles as it relates to the planning process.

In addition, we are asking for formal clarification and approval for the following:

- 1) Clarification of on role of National Exclusive Use Type I & II Helicopters (IA, Extended Attack or Large Fire support).
- 2) Are the above a Geographic Resource or a National Resource to be managed by NICC?
- 3) The GB is requesting relief from implementing business rule 24.9 D National Mobilization Guide for the 2009 season which states: GACCs will gain approval from NICC before reassigning all CWN type I and II helicopters to another incident.
- 4) The GB will provide feedback this fall at the Coordinators and GMAC, NMAC December meetings.

Sincerely,

/s/ Christie Neill

Christie Neill
Chair, Great Basin Coordinating Group

CC: GBCG
CC: GB ICs